

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
DARTMOUTH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

April 25, 2022

The warrants for bills payable were reviewed and signed by the School Committee.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Shannon Jenkins at 6:30 p.m. in the Dartmouth High School Library Media Center. The Chair stated the meeting is streaming live on the Dartmouth Community Media YouTube channel and noted the meeting is being videotaped for future broadcast over DCTV Channels 9 and 18.

On a roll call the following members were present: Dr. Jenkins, Mrs. Waite, Mrs. Amaral, Mr. Nunes and Mr. Oliver.

Also present: Dr. Gifford, Mr. Kiely and Mrs. Genthner.

RECOGNITION

Superintendent's Certificate of Excellence: The matter was held until a later meeting.

PRESENTATION

Spotlight on the James M. Quinn Elementary School: Dr. Gifford introduced Stephanie Yermalovich and Audra Thomas, Assistant Principals of the Quinn school. Mr. Grandfield, Quinn School Principal, was unable to attend this evening.

Mrs. Yermalovich and Mrs. Thomas introduced the video to be shared noting it was created through a collaborative effort of the entire fifth grade class.

The students participating in the evening's presentation introduced themselves: Logan Francisco, Addison Thomas, Ella Torres, Layla Fay, Kedzie Calabrese, Spencer Vieira, Violet Hill and Audrey Ostiguy.

The students explained that the assignment was a research-based argument essay and a video was shown indicating the results of the assignment: "Snow Days: Keep Them Traditional or for Remote Learning?" »

Mrs. Yermalovich and Mrs. Thomas introduced fifth grade faculty who were in attendance: Mrs. Rosa, Ms. Saltmarsh and Mr. Bowman.

The Committee thanked Mrs. Yermalovich, Mrs. Thomas, students and teachers for their presentation.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Student Representative Nayan Bala, a junior at Dartmouth High School, provided an update of recent activities and events happening at Dartmouth high school.

- Music Program Update: Indoor Winds took home the A Class silver medal at WGI World Championships in Dayton OH and the Indoor Percussion took home the bronze medal.
- Mrs. Kane and students are currently in Atlanta GA competing in the International DECA competition.
- DHS Theater Company is celebrating its 10th year in existence with the production of spring musical *Shrek*: May 5th through May 7th.
- AP exams start next week.
- Thank you to all the custodians who worked hard over April vacation to transform the high school dining hall back to normal; it was the first time since March 2020 that students were able to sit at lunch tables and not individual desks.

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Marcotte offered comments regarding the Dartmouth Indian logo.

David Ehrens offered comments regarding the Dartmouth Indian logo.

Michael Mattos offered comments regarding the Dartmouth Indian logo.

Lynne Turner offered comments regarding the Dartmouth Indian logo.

Gretchen Baker-Smith offered comments regarding the Dartmouth Indian logo.

Shelley Zhang offered comments regarding the Dartmouth Indian logo.

Chris Pereira offered comments regarding the Dartmouth Indian logo.

Renee Vieira made comments regarding the Dartmouth Indian logo.

Renee Vieira and Jody Parisi, co-presidents of Dartmouth Educators Association (DEA) offered comments regarding committee assignments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver to approve the Regular Session Minutes of April 4, 2022 as presented. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Mr. Nunes moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 11, 2022, as written, with the stipulation that they be held until such time as the matter or matters are completed. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

ORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEE

Appointment of Chair:

Dr. Jenkins opened the floor for nominations of the office of School Committee Chair.

Mrs. Amaral nominated Mr. Nunes to be Chair of the School Committee, seconded by Mr. Oliver.

No further nominations being offered, nominations were closed and Mr. Nunes was appointed Chair of the School Committee.

Mr. Nunes accepted the appointment of Chair of the School Committee.

Appointment of Vice Chair:

Mr. Nunes sought nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the School Committee.

Mrs. Waite nominated Mrs. Amaral to be Vice Chair of the School Committee.

Mrs. Amaral declined the nomination.

Dr. Jenkins nominated Mrs. Waite to be Vice-Chair of the School Committee, seconded by Mrs. Amaral.

No further nominations being offered, nominations were closed and Mrs. Waite was appointed Vice-Chair of the School Committee.

Mrs. Waite accepted the appointment of Vice-Chair of the School Committee.

Appointment of Secretary:

Mr. Nunes sought nominations for the position of Secretary to the School Committee.

Dr. Jenkins, seconded by Mrs. Waite to nominate Dr. Bonny L. Gifford to serve as Secretary for the School Committee. The motion carried unanimously: 5-0.

Dr. Gifford accepted the appointment of Secretary for the School Committee.

Chairperson Comments:

Mr. Nunes stated it is a privilege and honor to accept this responsibility.

School Committee Assignments:

Dartmouth Education Foundation	Mrs. Waite
Southern MA Educational Collaborative	Mr. Oliver
MA Association of School Committees	Mr. Nunes
Negotiations Representative	Mr. Nunes & Mrs. Waite
Policy Sub-Committee	Mrs. Amaral & Mrs. Waite
Technology Committee	Mr. Oliver
Fields & Facilities Committee	Mr. Nunes & Mrs. Amaral
Budget Committee	Dr. Jenkins & Mr. Oliver (Mr. Nunes back-up)
Town Charter Committee	Mrs. Waite and Heidi Brooks
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee	Dr. Jenkins and Mrs. Amaral
Town Open Space and Recreation Plan Steering Committee	Mr. Nunes (Mrs. Waite alternate)

School Assignments:

The Committee agreed to continue its current practice not to assign individual members a school and that members will actively engage with and be informed about all schools.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of the Dartmouth Indian Logo: Mr. Nunes opened the discussion on the Dartmouth Indian logo.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes that the Dartmouth Public Schools continue to use and honor the iconic Dartmouth Indian as drawn by Clyde Andrews a Dartmouth High School Alumni and member of the Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe in addition to tasking the school administration with engaging the Tribe creating a formal partnership with them.

Dr. Jenkins agreed with the need for education but did not agree with the motion to maintain the logo.

Mrs. Amaral did not disagree with the motion but stated she would like more detail as to what is meant by education adding we need to be more mindful and meaningful and made suggestions including a Town wide sub-committee similar to “Healthy Dartmouth.”

Mrs. Waite agreed with more education and would like to see the Town more involved adding if we are going to keep the icon it has to have more meaning.

Dr. Jenkins made a recommendation to formalize a statement to be given to the Select Board that addresses other Town departments responsibility towards the Indian logo and to present the same at our joint meeting.

Mrs. Waite asked about a standing committee.

Dr. Gifford commented on Mrs. Amaral’s recommendation to form a committee similar to “Healthy Dartmouth” adding it was not a formalized committee.

Mrs. Waite asked for the motion to be reread.

Mr. Oliver repeated his motion: “that the Dartmouth Public Schools continue to use and honor the iconic Dartmouth Indian as drawn by Clyde Andrews a Dartmouth High School Alumni and member of the Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe in addition to tasking the school administration with engaging the Tribe creating a formal partnership with them.”

Dr. Jenkins clarified, procedurally, we have an Indian for a logo “so regardless of how this vote goes we still have an Indian for a logo;” the only way that that goes away is if there is an affirmative vote for it to go away.

Mrs. Waite stated and explained why she still thinks we need to add to the motion.

Mr. Nunes stated Mrs. Waite could make a separate motion.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Mr. Nunes that the Dartmouth Public Schools continue to use and honor the iconic Dartmouth Indian as drawn by Clyde Andrews a Dartmouth High School Alumni and member of the Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe in addition to tasking the school administration with engaging the Tribe creating a formal partnership with. The motion passed: 3-1. Mrs. Waite abstained.

Mrs. Waite moved to organize a standing committee to address the future use of the Indian Name and Logo.

Mrs. Waite withdrew her motion.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver that the School Committee recommend to the Select Board that they also engage in an evaluation of Town policies and use of the logo and education in the community and that “we” request that they do that. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Dr. Jenkins asked that we deliver that to the Select Board as a potential agenda item for the joint meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Revisions to the Handbook: Dr. Gifford sought the Committee’s approval and vote for revisions to the student handbook.

Dr. Gifford referred to information provided to the Committee in their meeting packet regarding the matter of the proposed revised handbook together with a list of changes made noting the removal of the \$5.00 transcript fee.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Amaral to approve the student handbook as amended. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

2022 Sports Camp: Mr. Kiely sought the Committee’s approval to run the 2022 summer sports camp referring to information provided to the Committee explaining what is being proposed noting the camp will run from June 21st through July 22, 2022.

Dr. Jenkins asked for an updated report of the revolving account balances at a future meeting.

Mrs. Amaral asked that students participating in the extended school year program have an opportunity to sign up for summer sports camp.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to approve the 2022 Summer Sports camp. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School - School Committee: Dr. Gifford stated Mr. Shea expressed interest in continuing to represent Dartmouth on the GNBRVTHS School Committee; his term expires on May 1, 2022.

Dr. Jenkins provided background information noting she received a letter from GNBRVTHS indicating Mr. Shea’s term expiration date.

Dr. Jenkins moved, seconded by Mrs. Waite to reappoint Michael Shea as one of the Dartmouth representatives to the Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee. The motion passed unanimously: 5-0.

Superintendent's Update: Dr. Gifford provided information and updates of events and activities happening throughout the district.

- ELL update
- Speech Language Department Update
- DESE Audit (audit to take place on May 3rd, 4th and 5th)
- Moving Up Day for Grade 5
- Summer Reading Kick-off scheduled for June 7th
- Kindergarten Orientation (in person) on May 18th
- Junior Achievement Days being scheduled at the elementary schools
- District Art Show at DHS on May 5th
- DMS Jr Honor Society event on April 27th
- DHS senior activities being advertised and their last day is May 27th; graduation is June 5th
- Update on Cook Center for Human Connections (information was handed to Committee members) information will be posted on district Facebook page and in the electronic backpack to families.

Report of the Chair: The Chair had nothing further to report.

- SEPAC is hosting an event via zoom on May 5th (please check SEPAC Facebook page for more information.)
- Deadline for DEF grant applications is May 15th

Mr. Oliver asked that the topic of school security be added to a future executive session agenda.

Other Matters that may not have been anticipated at the time of Agenda posting.

NEXT MEETING

Next Meeting: The next regular session of the School Committee will take place in the Planning Board Room (Room 315) at Town Hall on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. followed by a joint session with the Select Board and Finance Committee an executive session will also be scheduled.

Mr. Oliver moved, seconded by Dr. Jenkins to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. The motion passed unanimously:
5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Bonny L. Gifford, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools